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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S.1, Special Branch,

REPORT

File No. S. B. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D.

Date January 26, 1939.

Subject Japanese Real Estate Owners movements on the Municipal Land Tax.

Made by D.S. Kamashita Forwarded by C Crawford

With reference to the attached cutting from the North China Daily News and translation from the Shanghai Mainichi regarding the attitude of local Japanese real estate owners towards the Municipal land tax, I have to state that as reported in the newspapers, committee members of the Japanese Real Estate Owners' League in Shanghai, which has some forty members, held a meeting at the Japanese Club, Boone Road between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. on January 14 with a view to discussing the matter of land tax required by the Municipal Council.

During the course of the meeting it was decided that a petition be made to the Municipal Council to cancel the tax on land situated in the Settlement area North of the Soochow Creek for that period between August and December, 1937. As was done with the house tax in the same area. Another decision arrived at was that a petition be made to the Municipal authorities to effect a re-assessment of the land values. The present Municipal rate on land is levied on the basis of assessment which was instituted several years ago, while the conditions have changed greatly as a result of the recent hostilities. It is their opinion that the land values should be reassessed taking into consideration present circumstances.

These petitions are stated to have been made to the Municipal Council through Mr. Mizuta, a Japanese member of the Land Committee of the S.M.C. and he is negotiating with the authorities.

D.C. (Special Branch).

D. S. K. Kamashita

P. A. to D. C. (Sp. Br.)
27/1

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

JAN 16 1939

Japanese Seek Tax Moratorium

Cry Revived to Lift Burden Of S.M.C. Land Charges

Reviving a cry of a year ago in revised form, Japanese property owners on Saturday launched a campaign for a moratorium on the payment of land taxes to the Shanghai Municipal Council for a period up from Jan. 1, 1938 to June 30, 1941, the Shanghai "Mainichi" revealed yesterday.

Also advocated at a three-hour meeting of the Shanghai Japanese Real Estate Owners' League on Saturday, the daily said, was the reassessment of land values owned by Japanese. The present rates, it was said, were imposed in 1936 on the basis of a survey dating as far back as 1933.

Originally, the Japanese Real Estate Owners' League last January advocated the non-payment of land taxes, but the movement failed because by the time the action was proposed some of the landowners had already paid their rates, the "Mainichi" stated. In normal conditions, Japanese paid $350,000 a year to the Council in land taxes alone, the newspaper reported.

Admitting that the realization of the landowners' demands would bring but little economic advantages here, the Japanese daily said that the success of the negotiations would bring a favourable reaction in Japan proper.

Claims for consideration by the Council are based upon the "new circumstances" which have taken place here as a result of the "valuable sacrifices of the Japanese Army and Navy," according to the "Mainichi."

D. S. Kennedy

MAINICHI

JAPANESE MOVEMENT TO POSTPONE PAYMENT OF LAND TAX AND TO REVISE THE MUNICIPAL RATES

At 6 p.m. January 14 the directors of the United Association of Estate Owners in Shanghai held a meeting at the Japanese Club. Among those present were Mr. Hayashi, Chairman of the Association and Messrs Shimosato, Takematsu, Honda, Orida, Ashizawa, Makise and Ohta.

The meeting resolved (1) that payment of land tax be postponed and (2) that a request be made for the revision of the Municipal rates.

The meeting also discussed the policy to be adopted in these matters.

Japanese who own land on the north side of the Soochow Creek pay a land tax of Yen300,000 to the S.M.C. every year. In January, 1938 the land-owners asked the S.M.C. for exemption from the land tax, but the S.M.C. could not agree because a section of the owners had already paid their tax. The Japanese landowners have now resolved to submit another proposal to the effect that the payment of their land tax be postponed for three years(namely to June 30, 1941).

It was also resolved that the S.M.C. be requested to revise the Municipal rate which were made in 1936 on the basis of the investigation made in 1933.

In connection with the land tax question, Consul-General Miura has been requested to do his best to give effect to the resolution because it would affect Japanese interests greatly. As regards a standard of land tax.Mr. Mizuda, a Japanese member of the Land Commission of the S.M.C. will be requested to do his best in the interests of Japanese.

D.S. Tanaka